DIT through Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai is executing GIS/ GPS based application "Rural Area Development Monitoring and Information Systems (RAIMS)" project on a pilot scale in Tamil Nadu.

DIT has recently announced policy guidelines, which aims at providing support to State Governments to establish State Wide Area Network (SWANs) from the State Headquarters up to the Block level with a minimum bandwidth capacity of 2 Mbps. These networks would be connected to NICNET through appropriate interfaces.

Dwindling telephone market share of MTNLandBSNL

2238. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether on account of strident promotion by private players of their services and products, the telephone market share of MTNL and BSNL is dwindling continuously;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether private players offer a number of added features at competitive rates in both fixed, wireless and mobile phones, which Government sector is unable to offer;

(d) if so, what measures are contemplated to win back the customers;

(e) whether MTNL, Delhi Telephone Directory has not been published for the last many years; and

(f) if so, by when it is likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, details of working connections and market share of BSNL and MTNL in March, 2003 and March, 2004 are as follows:

	Connections as on 31.3.2003	Market Share as on 31.3.2003	Connections as on 31.3.2004	Market Share as on 31.3.2004
		Fixed line		
BSNL	35.91 (million)	86.54%	36.11 (million)	84.29%
MTNL	4.63 (million)	11.17%	4:37 (million)	10.19%
		Mobile connection		
BSNL	22.98 (lakh)	17.68%	55.36 (lakh)	16.4%
MTNL	3.47 (lakh)	2.67%	4.63 (lakh)	1.4%

(c) and (d) The Government operators are also offering a number of added features at competitive rates in both fixed and wireless segments of telecom services. In order to become more competitive, both MTNL & BSNL are taking several initiatives including introduction of new services, modernizing and upgrading the existing network, offering competitive tariffs and improving customer care etc.

(e) and (f) Last telephone directory was published in 1999 (Main issue) and 2000 (Supplementary). Tender for printing of Telephone Directory for the Years 2003-2008 were issued. But thereafter many tender conditions were required to be changed and it became necessary to cancel that tender and issue fresh tender with the revised tender conditions. The old tender could not be cancelled as one of the party has gone to the court and matter is *subjudice*.

Directory services in Delhi are also available on Internet as well as in CD in addition to free DIRECTORY service on "197".

Sale of BSNL recharge coupons in Karnataka

2239. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many BSNL prepaid coupons are being sold, on an average, every month in Karnataka;

(b) whether the BSNL has tied up with the Department of Posts to market its recharge coupons in Karnataka;